AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** An ink jet recording medium having an ink receiving layer formed on a substrate, wherein an ink fixing agent contained in the ink receiving layer is a serpentine compound containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Mg and Zn, and wherein the serpentine compound is represented by the following formula (1):

$(Mg_aZn_b)\ Si_2O_5\ (OH)_{2(a+b)-2} \cdot nH_2O$ (1)

wherein "a", "b" and "n" satisfy $2.7 < a < 3.5$, $0 \leq b < 0.25$ and $0 < n < 3$, respectively and has a bottom reflection spacing (dÅ) measured by a power X-ray diffraction method of 8.5 to 10.0 Å and a (060) reflection spacing (dÅ) of 1.53 to 1.56 Å.

2. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the serpentine compound has a BET specific surface area of 150 to 500 m^2/g.

3. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the serpentine compound has a total pore volume (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 0.40 to 1.20 mL/g.

4. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the serpentine compound has an average pore diameter (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 40 to 150 Å.

Claim 5 **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the serpentine compound has an average particle diameter of 1 to 15 μm.

Claim 7 **(Cancelled)**

8. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the serpentine compound is synthetic.

9. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink fixing agent is a fixing agent for a pigment- or dye-containing ink.

10. **(Original)** The ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink fixing agent is a fixing agent for a pigment-containing ink.

11. **(Currently amended)** An ink fixing agent for use in an ink jet recording medium having an ink receiving layer formed on a substrate, which is contained in the ink receiving layer and a serpentine compound containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Mg and Zn, and wherein the serpentine compound is represented by the following formula (1):

$$(Mg_aZn_b)\ Si_2O_5\ (OH)_{2(a+b)-2} \cdot nH_2O \qquad (1)$$

wherein "a", "b" and "n" satisfy $2.7 < a < 3.5$, $0 \leq b < 0.25$ and $0 < n < 3$, respectively and has a bottom reflection spacing measured by a power X-ray diffraction method (dÅ) of 8.5 to 10.0 Å and a (060) reflection spacing (dÅ) of 1.53 to 1.56 Å..

12. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11, wherein the serpentine compound has a BET specific surface area of 150 to 500 m^2/g.

13. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11, wherein the serpentine compound has a total pore volume (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 0.40 to 1.20 mL/g,

14. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11, wherein the serpentine compound has an average pore diameter (N_2 gas adsorption method) of 40 to 150 Å.

Claim 15 **(Cancelled)**

16. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11, wherein the serpentine compound has an average particle diameter of 1 to 15 μm.

Claim 17 **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11, wherein the serpentine compound is synthetic.

19. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11 which is a fixing agent for a pigment- or dye-containing ink.

20. **(Original)** The ink fixing agent according to claim 11 which is a fixing agent for a pigment-containing ink.